

HISTORIC AREA COMMISSION
New Castle Town Hall
2nd and Delaware Streets
May 16, 2013

Present: Sally Monigle, Chairperson
Dorsey Fiske
Doug Heckrotte
Bill Hentkowski
Tom McDowell

Also Present: Jeff Bergstrom, Building Inspector

Ms. Monigle called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m. Roll call was taken.

NEW APPLICATIONS

S. Velitskakis, 226 E. 2nd Street

Demolish house.

Discussion: The house has been deemed a health hazard; the City has condemned it. A remediation company cleaned the house out. A structural engineer examined the house and reported it to be unstable and unsalvageable. (Copies of the engineer's report was sent to commissioners prior to meeting.) There is an adjoining house and a common wall exists. The common wall will be rebuilt one floor at a time during demolition. Two new homes are planned on the site and will be detached from the adjacent house. The applicant was questioned why the new homes would not be attached to the existing house. Mr. Heckrotte is interested in preserving the façade of the house and the brackets. Area residents testified to the poor condition and smell emanating from the house and agreed with keeping any architectural elements relevant to the era for use on the new structure.

Action: Mr. McDowell made a motion to demolish the house and that the owner save the original architectural features to be used on any new structure which should duplicate the front façade as much as possible. (Discussion followed.)

Discussion followed to delete text requiring using architectural features on the new structure and duplicating the front façade. These will be addressed later during the new construction phase. Mr. McDowell was in agreement and Mr. Heckrotte seconded the amendment. The amendment was approved.

The amended motion reads, "A motion was made by Mr. McDowell to approve demolishing the house and that the owner will save the original architectural features (brackets)." Ms. Fiske seconded the amended motion.

Disposition: The amended motion was approved.

C. Brennan, 100 The Strand

Replace exterior storm windows on 3rd floor dormers in kind. Restore window sashes on 2nd floor.

Action: Mr. Heckrotte made a motion to vote on the application as submitted. Mr. McDowell seconded the motion.

Disposition: Motion carried.

B. White, 14 The Strand

Filling in mortar over front door, windows on left front gable. Right front Chimney point and clean missing mortar. Smokehouse (neighbor's side) point and fill wall.

Action: Mr. McDowell made a motion to vote on the application as submitted.

Ms. Fiske seconded the motion.

Disposition: Motion carried.

M. Kelleher, 26 W. 3rd Street

Replace shutters on front of house in kind.

Action: Mr. Heckrotte made a motion to vote on the application as submitted in accordance with the litany (louvers should be facing the correct direction; opposite from current direction). Mr. Hentkowski seconded.

Disposition: Motion carried.

D. Robinson, 53 E. 2nd Street

Replace existing side entrance door in kind.

Action: Mr. Heckrotte made a motion to vote on the application as submitted.

Ms. Fiske seconded.

Disposition: Motion carried.

W. Barthel, 72 W. 5th Street

Replacing current fence at rear of property w/6' high treated wood fence in kind.

Discussion: Current fence is 4'; HAC does not have jurisdiction over the rear. Applicant is voluntarily submitting this application.

Action: Mr. Heckrotte made a motion to vote on the application as submitted.

Ms. Fiske seconded the motion.

Disposition: The motion was approved.

D. Ward, 34 W. 5th Street

Replacing steel cellar door at front of property per specs attached.

Action: Mr. Heckrotte made a motion to vote on the application as submitted.

Ms. Fiske seconded the motion.

Disposition: The motion was approved.

D. Fiske, 26 E. 3rd Street

Build a fence along back of property per specs attached.

Discussion: Location is parallel to 3rd and 4th Streets. Material to be used is straight top, 4" wide wood boards, western red cedar to match the fence on her property. The good side will face the neighbor's property.

Action: Mr. Heckrotte made a motion to vote on the application as submitted.

Mr. Hentkowski seconded the motion.

Disposition: The motion was approved by a vote of 4 in favor with 1 abstaining (Fiske).

M&T Bank, 210 Delaware Street

Replace gutters along alley side.

Discussion: Gutters will be half round gutters and round downspouts. Maintenance pointing will be done in certain areas.

Action: Mr. Heckrotte made a motion to vote on the application as submitted with the requirement a sample of the pointing installed be looked at by a member of HAC. Mr. Hentkowski seconded the motion.

Disposition: The motion was approved.

Restoration of New Castle's Bronze Statue of Wm. Penn (bet. 2nd & Market Streets)

Repair and patination of the Wm. Penn sculpture.

Discussion: Work (proposal of Laran Bronze) will involve light sandblasting and wire-brush cleaning in an effort to return statue to its original golden bronze color. Acid rain and changes in seasons have contributed to the change in color over time. Treating the statue with wax every 1-2 years will help retain its bronze color. The work will be paid for by the Travers family. Increased public exposure is anticipated with the recent National Park Service designation.

Action: Mr. Heckrotte made a motion to vote on the application as submitted. Mr. Hentkowski seconded the motion.

Disposition: The motion failed by unanimous vote. HAC disagrees with returning to the original hue and the use of sandblasting.

(A second proposal was discussed.)

Action: Mr. Heckrotte made a motion to vote on the application as submitted with the requirement that the proposal of Linda Lennon be accepted (no sandblasting).

Ms. Fiske seconded the motion.

Disposition: The motion was approved by unanimous vote. *(The Trustees of the New Castle Common will be informed.)*

EMERGENCY APPLICATIONS

Wollaston, 21 E. 4th Street

Replace retaining wall.

Discussion: Mr. Bergstrom reported that the retaining wall at 21 E. 4th Street will be replaced. The homeowner is requesting guidance from HAC. The homeowner likes landscape ties, but HAC discourages using them. Other retaining walls have been constructed of concrete block and stuccoed that requires a foundation. Another option is dry stacking retaining blocks or installing a concrete block wall and put a brick face on it, which may not be cost efficient.

Action: Mr. Heckrotte made a motion to vote on the application as submitted with the requirement that the retaining wall be constructed with a reinforced concrete block wall stuccoed with a brick cap. Mr. Hentkowski seconded the motion.

Action: The motion was approved.

Approval of Minutes – Corrections were noted. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the 4/18/13 meeting as amended. Motion carried.

Historic Area Commission Minutes
May 16, 2013

Adjournment -- There being no further business to address, the meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Debbie Turner
Stenographer

(Stenographer was not present at meeting; minutes prepared from recording.)